THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN

SLOTT | STEGMAN | DELGADO

MARVEL NOW!

BZZZ

SO IT BEGINS.

THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE.

YAHH.

AND THE *FIRST* DAY OF *NO PETER PARKER* PRATTLING ABOUT IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD!

DOCTOR.

STATUS?

TARGETS 4 AND 6 ACQUIRED.

EXCELLENT.

FINALLY. I AM FREE TO BE THE MAN--

--OR RATHER THE *SPIDER-MAN* THAT I WANT TO BE.

WHITE DRAGON *AND* THE OWL. DECISIONS...

STATE THEIR LOCATIONS. WHICH IS CLOSER?

BOTH TARGETS ARE ON BAYARD STREET AND--

BOTH? EXPLAIN.

THEY HAVE ENGAGED EACH OTHER.

CLARIFY.

BEST DESCRIPTION OF CONFLICT: GANG WAR.

PARKER WAS EVER THE *REACTIVE FOOL.*

STUMBLING FROM ONE ADVENTURE TO THE NEXT. ALLOWING HIS ENEMIES TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

SLURP.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAIT ONLY WHEN IT *SERVES* ME.

LET THEM THIN OUT THEIR RANKS. ONCE THEY ARE SUITABLY WEAKENED--ONLY THEN SHALL I STRIKE!

JUST WATCH! WHERE PARKER DEALT WITH THE *SYMPTOMS*--

--I, OTTO OCTAVIUS, SHALL ELIMINATE THE *DISEASE!*

I WILL RID THIS CITY OF CRIME.

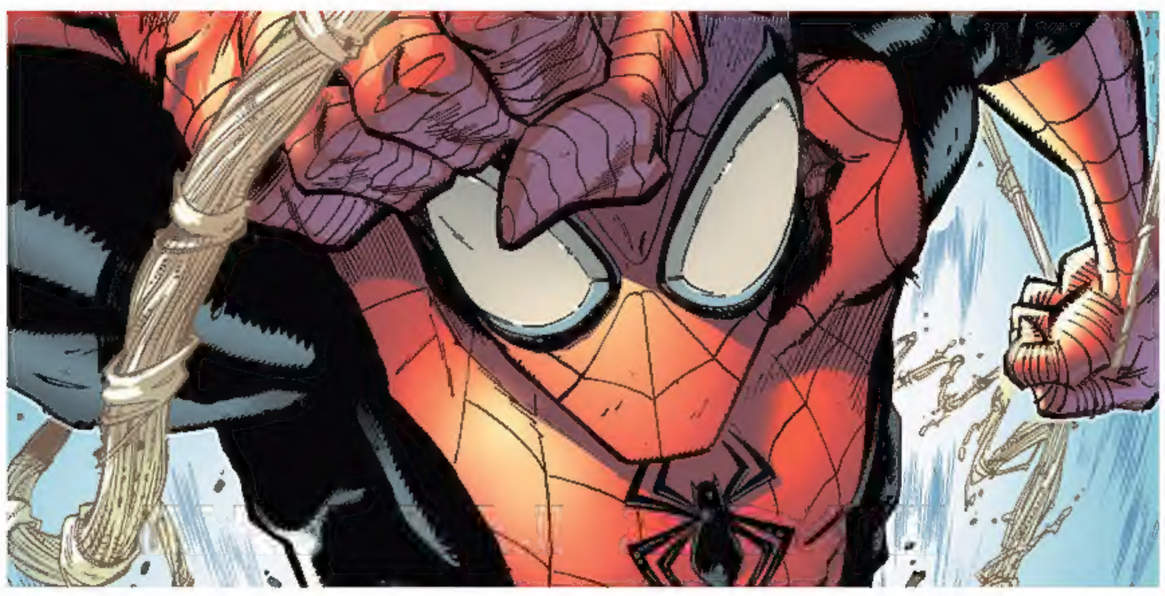
I WILL SAVE YOU ALL.

FROM THIS POINT ON, I WILL BE A *BETTER* HERO THAN YOU ALL *DESERVE!*

AR

INDEPENDENCE DAY

THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN



OTTO OCTAVIUS IS A MAN WHO CHEATED DEATH, BUT AT A PRICE. WHEN HE EXCHANGED BODIES WITH **PETER PARKER**, HE GAINED THE AMAZING SKILLS OF SPIDER-MAN—AND ALL OF PETER'S MEMORIES. OTTO FINALLY UNDERSTANDS PETER'S MISSION OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

BUT A TINY PIECE OF PETER PARKER IS STILL THERE IN THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN'S BRAIN, WATCHING OTTO LIVE OUT HIS LIFE AND TRYING TO KEEP THE REFORMED VILLAIN IN CHECK.

USING HIS NEUROLITIC SCANNER TO ENTER HIS BRAIN, OCK ENGAGES THE SUBCONSCIOUS GHOST OF PETER, USING HIS GREATEST FEARS AND ENEMIES AGAINST HIM.

OCK BEATS PETER DOWN, UNTIL HE GIVES IN AND HIS MEMORY IS WIPED CLEAN FROM HIS MIND. NOW, PETER IS GONE AND THERE IS ONLY OTTO OCTAVIUS.

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YOU'VE OVERREACHED, OWLSLEY!

MOVING YOUR CHEAP NARCOTICS IN *MY* TERRITORY?! THIS GOES AGAINST ALL OF THE--

SILENCE! YOU HAVE *NO* CLAIM HERE!

THE *REAL* WHITE DRAGON PERISHED MONTHS AGO!

WHO ARE YOU? ONE OF KINGSLEY'S STAND-INS?!

THE ORIGINAL HOBGOBLIN'S BEEN SELLING UNUSED SUPER VILLAIN IDENTITIES TO THE HIGHEST BIDDERS. SEE ASM #697 -STEVE.

IMPOSTER!

COME DOWN HERE, OWL.

I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING REAL.

WAK

PATHETIC!

SQUABBLING OVER A FEW SQUARE BLOCKS ALL FOR THE RIGHTS--

--TO PEDDLE YOUR POISONS!

THE WEB-SLINGER!

I'LL HAVE *NONE* OF THAT!

KTAM

LET THIS SERVE AS A REMINDER...

SHK

...AND A WARNING...

FLSH

...FOR ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH...

SHRK

FWSH

...TO BRING *THEIR* WARS...

...TO MY *STREETS!*

THK

THAT'S IT?!
RUN! SCATTER! IT *WON'T* HELP YOU!
I'LL FIND EVERY LAST ONE OF--
SPIDER-MAN!
I WAS TALKING. HOW RUDE.
FACE ME! AND FEEL THE FIERY WRATH OF--
"FIERY WRATH"? DEAR LORD, DO I--WE--
WHO *TALKS* LIKE THAT?
GYAH--!
RUNCH
I C-CAN BREATHE FIRE.
NO. YOUR SUIT CAN.
AND CONSIDERING I JUST--
÷AHK÷
--PARTIALLY CRUSHED YOUR TRACHEA...
AKK AHH
...I'D ADVISE AGAINST BURNING AWAY THE OXYGEN NEAR YOUR MOUTH.
NEXT TIME? DON'T INTERRUPT.

AND AS FOR YOU, OWLSLEY, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU...

...THOUGH APPARENTLY, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY *SPIDER-SENSE.*

OH, MY... I--I SURRENDER!

HM.

NO.

THWIP

YOU DON'T GET AN EASY WAY OUT, LELAND.

OH, NO. YOU AND I--WE HAVE SCORES TO SETTLE, OLD FRIEND...

PTAMM

...ALL THOSE BATTLES BACK IN THE DAY.

THE OWL AND THE OCTOPUS!

YES, I'LL ENJOY MAKING AN EXAMPLE OUT OF YOU!

HOLY--CAN YOU HEAR THAT?

WHAT'S SPIDEY DOIN' TO HIM?!

DON'T LOOK BACK!

JUST KEEP MOVIN'!

HEY!

SKREEEEE

YOU RUNNING FROM *THE SPIDER*?!

IF YOU WANNA LIVE, YOU COME WITH US!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!

WE GOT MASKS ON, HE CAN'T KNOW WHAT WE--

YOU CRAZY? SPIDER-MAN'S GOT EYES EVERYWHERE. WE'RE SCREWED!

RRRKSP

YO! YOU'RE WITH THE WHITE DRAGON?

WHAT THE HELL--?!

YOU AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY FROM THE SPIDER *TOPSIDE.*

YOU NEED TO LAY LOW, AND I GOT JUST THE SPOT. *C'MON!*

TWO MORE. THE BUG'S BEEN BUSY. BETTER CALL IT IN.

AND GET SOME PARAMEDICS OVER HERE. LOOKIT THESE GUYS.

UNHHH

REMEMBER WHEN HE USED TO LEAVE THE LITTLE NOTES?

I MISS THOSE. WONDER WHY HE STOPPED DOING THAT...

DONE. WITH TIME TO SPARE.

IF I HURRY, I CAN JUST MAKE IT...

...TO MY MORNING CLASS.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

PETER!

IT'S THAT WATSON WOMAN. WHAT IS SHE *DOING* HERE?

MAY SAID I COULD FIND YOU HERE. I WAS HOPING WE COULD--

LOOK, WE NEED TO TALK.

JUST WHAT I NEED.

THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR I WANT NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH HER.

SORRY, MJ. NOT A GOOD TIME. EARNING A DOCTORATE. VERY BUSY.

WHAT WOULD PARKER SAY?

THIS WAS MUCH EASIER BEFORE I PURGED ALL OF HIS MEMORIES.

RAIN CHECK?

TOODLE-OO.

TOODLE-*WHAT?*

DID HE--? HE BLEW ME OFF.

AFTER MONTHS OF NOT EVEN A SINGLE WORD. PETER? THIS ISN'T YOU. AT ALL.

POLICE D

I CALLED YOU IN BECAUSE OF AN INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS ON LEAVE.

I'VE READ THE REPORTS. AND IT DOESN'T ADD UP.

YOU WERE ONE OF THE OFFICERS AT THE SCENE. HELP ME UNDERSTAND THIS...

SPIDER-MAN SHOT AND *KILLED* A MAN?

CPT. WATANABE

AR

THE MAN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, CAPTAIN, WAS "*MASSACRE*." A SUPER VILLAIN. A CRAZED GUNMAN.

IF ANYONE SAW SPIDEY WITH A GUN THAT DAY, IT WAS 'CAUSE HE *DISARMED* HIM.

HEY, A LOT OF US DREW ON THAT GUY. WHO'S TO SAY WEB-HEAD'S ROUND TOOK HIM OUT?

FOR ALL I KNOW, COULDA' BEEN ONE I FIRED.

I WAS LOOKING THE WRONG WAY, CAP. GUESS I GOT DISTRACTED...

...BY ALL THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN MASSACRE HAD GUNNED DOWN.

THEY'RE GONE. YOU CAN COME OUT, COOPER.

DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT *I'VE* HEARD ENOUGH.

WHAT? FROM THE "*BLUE WALL OF SILENCE*." NO ONE'S SAYING WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED.

AND THAT GOES FOR ALL THE EYEWITNESSES TOO. THEY'RE ALL *LYING* TO PROTECT HIM.

YOU SURE?

I PERFORMED THE AUTOPSY ON MASSACRE MYSELF.

HIS WRIST WAS SHATTERED. AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH, HE COULDN'T HOLD A GUN. HE WAS UNARMED.

AND THE GUNSHOT WOUND THAT KILLED HIM? POINT BLANK RANGE.

THE SPIDER-MAN *I* KNOW WOULD *NEVER* DO THAT. BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO PROVE IT THIS TIME...

...NOT WITHOUT TAKING A *LOT* OF GOOD OFFICERS DOWN IN THE PROCESS. I GUESS...

"...WE'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO GET THE GOODS ON HIM."

HA HA HA!

THERE IT IS, SPIDER.

THE CHINK IN YOUR ARMOR. THE DEVIL IN YOUR DETAILS. THE TROJAN IN YOUR HORSE.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY, BOSS?

THIS, CHILDREN. DO YOU SEE? A DESIGN FLAW.

RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF SPIDER-MAN'S MANY EYES.

SORRY, BOSS. BUT I DON'T SEE NUTHIN'.

I KNOW, DEAR BOY. AND NEITHER WILL HE.

HEE HEE HEE!

COME, MY LITTLE CHERUBS...

"...LET'S PUT THIS TO THE TEST!"

EXCUSE ME.

MR. PARKER!

WHAT? YOU'RE DONE? ALREADY?

YES.

WHAT'D YOU GET FOR NINE?

THE BEST LAUGH ALL MORNING.

PETER, BACK TO YOUR SEAT.

THERE'S NO CONCEIVABLE WAY YOU'VE COMPLETED--

THIS CHARMING LITTLE DIVERSION? PLEASE. CHILD'S PLAY.

TODAY: MID-TERM EXAM

ALSO, THERE WAS A TYPO ON PAGE FOUR. FIXED IT FOR YOU.

...

DON'T BOTHER CHECKING. I ACED IT. LATER, DON.

TODA MID-TE EXA

THIS--THIS IS FAR FROM OVER, MR. PARKER...

...THERE IS *STILL* THE MATTER OF YOUR *THESIS!*

IT'S REVOLUTIONARY. AWE-INSPIRING. YOU'LL LOVE IT.

NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND.

EXIT

PSST. HEY, SLICK.

ANNA!

FREE FOR DINNER?

I HAVE PLANS. WITH MY AUNT.

DESSERT THEN?

ALL RIGHT. IT'S A DATE.

NO TALKING!

Chelsea.
MJ'S NIGHTCLUB

CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING...

PETER'S BEEN ACTING SO ODDLY LATELY...

...BUT THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN *SOMETHING* THERE. A HINT--A SPARK--OF THE GUY I *USED* TO KNOW.

BUT TODAY? NOTHING. JUST A-- SENSE OF DREAD. I WONDER...

...IF THIS IS HOW PETER FEELS WHEN HIS SPIDER-SENSE GOES OFF.

CAN'T BELIEVE THE NEW BOSS SENT US HERE.

WE TOLD HIM THE SPIDER KEEPS AN EYE ON THIS PLACE.

HM. MAYBE THAT'S *WHY.*

LOOK. NUTHIN'.

HE DID IT! HE HACKED THE SPIDER'S NETWORK.

WE'RE NOT SHOWIN' UP ON HIS "WEB."

Y'KNOW WHAT *THAT* MEANS? TIME TO MAKE SOME *MISCHIEF!*

I CAN'T BE THE *ONLY* ONE WHO'S NOTICED IT.

I SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE. CARLIE? MAYBE AUNT MAY...

WEIRD. THE PHONE'S DEAD...

...HOPE EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT.

MY NEPHEW, THE DOCTOR. I'LL *NEVER* GET TIRED OF SAYING THAT.

I STILL HAVE TO PRESENT MY THESIS, AUNT MAY. BUT, YES, IT'S PRETTY MUCH A LOCK.

"DR. PARKER." YOU SHOULD HAVE CARDS MADE.

WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY APPLIED YOURSELF, PETER.

IN NO SMALL PART DUE TO *ME*. DON'T FORGET...

...I'M THE ONE WHO TAUGHT THE BOY THE VALUE OF HARD WORK!

DINNERS WITH MY NEWFOUND FAMILY. NEVER HAD THIS MUCH SUPPORT IN MY LIFE.

YOU HAD IT *ALL*, PARKER. BUT YOU COULDN'T APPRECIATE IT, COULD YOU? I WON'T MAKE *THAT* MISTAKE.

EVERYTHING'S SO LOVELY TONIGHT. AND I DON'T WANT TO RUIN IT...

...BUT I HAVE A REQUEST TO MAKE.

PLEASE. YOU DEAR SWEET LADY. HOW COULD I DENY YOU ANYTHING?

I SAW THAT VIDEO. ON THE YOUTUBES. OF SPIDER-MAN ATTACKING THAT GIRL, CUE BALL.

"SCREWBALL."

YES. AND SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG WITH THAT YOUNG MAN. WHAT HE DID TO HER--IT WAS HORRIBLE. SICKENING.

I KNOW YOU BUILD GADGETS FOR HIM. BUT I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE ASSOCIATING WITH THAT KIND OF PERSON. PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY CLEAR OF HIM.

I SWEAR. YOU'LL NEVER SEE THE TWO OF US TOGETHER AGAIN.

WHAT'S THE *MATTER* WITH ALL OF YOU?! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SPIDEY AS IF HE'S THE SCUM OF THE EARTH...

...WHEN HE'S ONE OF NEW YORK'S *GREATEST TREASURES!*

SON, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. LOOK AT WHAT HE DID TO BOOMERANG--

WHO WAS GOING TO BLACKMAIL THE CITY WITH A WEATHER MACHINE!

...OR THE VULTURE!

WINGED MENACE! TERRORIZING THE SKIES!

UM...

I SHOULD BE GOING.

OH. I'M SURE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECT...

BUT WHAT ABOUT DESSERT?

HE'S PRACTICALLY A SOCIOPATH NOW--

...BUT I'M MEETING UP WITH A GIRL FROM SCHOOL. SHE'S... UM...

POPPYCOCK!

...I THINK SHE'S VERY SPECIAL, AUNT MAY.

HIS TAKE NO PRISONERS ATTITUDE IS JUST WHAT WE NEED--

IN A FASCIST POLICE STATE!

A GIRL? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO? GO! SHOO! DON'T KEEP HER WAITING.

YES, MA'AM.

A DOCTOR. A GOOD JOB. *AND* A GIRL. FINALLY.

--ACTING LIKE JUDGE, JURY, AND EXECUTIONER!

ON CAREER CRIMINALS, YOU BLEEDING HEART HIPPY!

EVERYTHING'S PERFECT.

DEAD.
NOT JUST THE LANDLINE. IT'S MY CELL TOO.
YEAH. I'M NOT GETTING A SIGNAL.
ME TOO. ONE SEC...
...LET ME TRY OUT ON THE TERRACE.
I SWEAR, IF I HAVE TO GO A NIGHT WITHOUT TEXTING, YOU MAY AS WELL...
FOOOO
...KILL ME.
HEY! WAS THAT A JACK O'--
KCHOOM
OH, GOD...
EVERYONE STAY CALM. HEAD FOR THE STAIRS...
DOORS WONT OPEN!
THEY'RE BLOCKED!
HELP! SOMEBODY!
KEEP CALM! OKAY?!
PETER...
...TELL ME YOU SAW THAT!

WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?

A CARBONATED SORBET.

WITH DRY ICE?

I'M A SCIENCE CHEF. FROZEN CARBON DIOXIDE IS JUST PART OF THE PROCESS. WE DON'T EAT IT, SILLY.

RIGHT. BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE--

--DANGEROUS.

FUMP

ANNA MARIA!

PSSS

NO!

AHH!

BLAST IT!

PETER, ARE YOU OKAY?!

IT WAS JUST THE SHOCK.

TRUST ME, MS. MARCONI. I'VE BEEN THROUGH WORSE.

DON'T MOVE.

FIRST WE NEED SOME TEPID WATER.

THEN, IF YOU COULD GIVE ME A BOOST TO THE COUNTER...

HERE. SOME OINTMENT. AND THEN WE'LL WRAP IT IN--

ANNA, I'M A SCIENTIST. I KNOW HOW TO TREAT A DRY ICE BURN.

I KNOW--I JUST...I CAN'T STOP TALKING. MY HEART WON'T STOP--

I'M SORRY. OH. LOOK AT THIS MESS.

IT'S OKAY.

YOU--

YOU SAVED ME.

I KNOW.

I PROMISED YOU DESSERT.

THIS AGAIN?

BZZT BZZT BZZZZZZT

IT'S--MY PHONE--

I HELP SPIDER-MAN. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT? WITH HIS TECH. HE NEEDS ME. PEOPLE COULD BE IN DANGER--

THEN YOU *HAVE* TO GO, SLICK. I'LL...

I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU GET BACK.

IF YOU STILL WANT TO.

NOBODY'S COMING! DOORS ARE BOLTED SHUT!

IT WAS ONE OF THOSE VULTURE KIDS! I SWEAR I SAW HIM.

THIS ISN'T AN ACCIDENT! SOMEONE WANTS US TO *DIE* IN HERE!

OH THIS CLUB IS *CURSED!* MJ?! WHY AREN'T YOU DOING ANYTHING?!

EXIT

WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE.

PETER'S WATCHING OUT FOR ME. I KNOW IT. NO MATTER WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN US...

...OR HOW MUCH HE'S CHANGED, HE'LL ALWAYS BE SPIDER-MAN...

...AND HE'LL ALWAYS KEEP ME SAFE.

I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN THAT. I NEED TO HAVE FAITH.

STAND CLEAR!

KAM

EVERYONE STAY CLOSE.

WE'RE GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE!

EASY, MA'AM. I HAVE YOU.

PETER?...

KNEW YOU WOULD....

MA'AM?

PETER?

YES?

AH! YOU'RE...

THE VERY BIG FIREMAN.

WELL, I GO BY "PEDRO."

BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?

OH...

LUCKY GUESS.

"GOOD WORK, SPIDER-MAN..."

...WAY TO SHOW US UP, WEB-HEAD. WITH TOMBSTONE, HERE...

...YOU GOT THE HEADS OF *THREE* CRIME FAMILIES IN UNDER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. HOW THE HELL'D YOU DO *THAT?*

WELL, SERGEANT, LITERALLY...

...IT WAS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK.

HE TRYIN' TO BE FUNNY?

YEAH. JUST GO WITH IT.

BUT IT'S NOT EVEN A--I'M ONLY SAYIN' HE USED TO BE A *LOT* FUNNIER. THAT'S ALL.

SOME OF TOMBSTONE'S GUYS GOT AWAY THOUGH.

NOT TO WORRY. I'LL FIND THEM. BUT FIRST, THERE WAS A SCHEDULE *CONFLICT.*

A FIRE ACROSS TOWN. I REROUTED THE ALERT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

A NIGHTCLUB IN CHELSEA? YEAH. THAT GOT DEALT WITH. EVERYONE'S GOOD.

EXCELLENT.

AND THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE.

WHEN EVERYONE DOES THEIR JOB--AND LIVES UP TO THEIR FULL RESPONSIBILITY, LOOK AT WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE.

HMM. IF PARKER WERE HERE, HE'D FAIL TO GRASP THAT.

I HAVE TO STAY FOCUSED ON THE *BIG PICTURE...*

...EVERYTHING ELSE IS BENEATH ME.

AIN'T NO POINT IN TAKIN' US TO SEE YOUR BOSS.

WE WORK FOR MR. LINCOLN. TOMBSTONE! AND NOBODY ELSE.

FINE. HEAD BACK UP. TAKE YOUR CHANCES WITH THE SPIDER.

YOUR CHOICE.

ALL RIGHT. YOU GOT A DEAL. YOU GIVE US PROTECTION FROM THE WEB-SLINGER, WE'LL JOIN YOUR LITTLE GANG.

OH. SIR, YOU WOUND ME. WE ARE *NOT* A GANG. WE ARE SO MUCH *MORE.*

WE'RE A FAMILY. AN *EMPIRE!* A *PANTHEON!* AND I?

I AM YOUR *DADDY*, YOUR *GOD*...

I AM THE GOBLIN KING!

To be continued.

'SUP SPIDER-MAN

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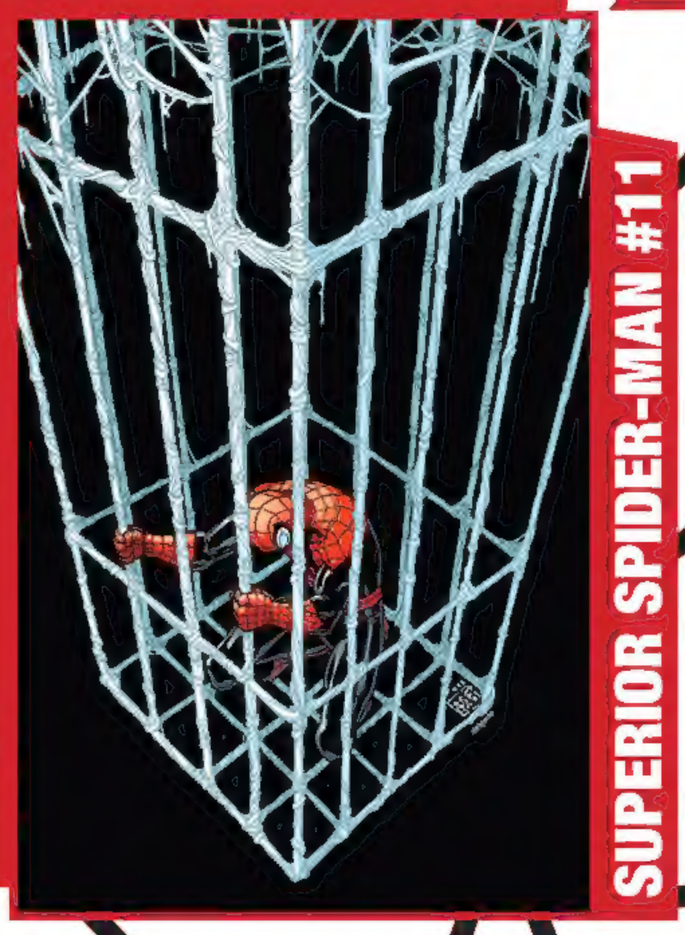

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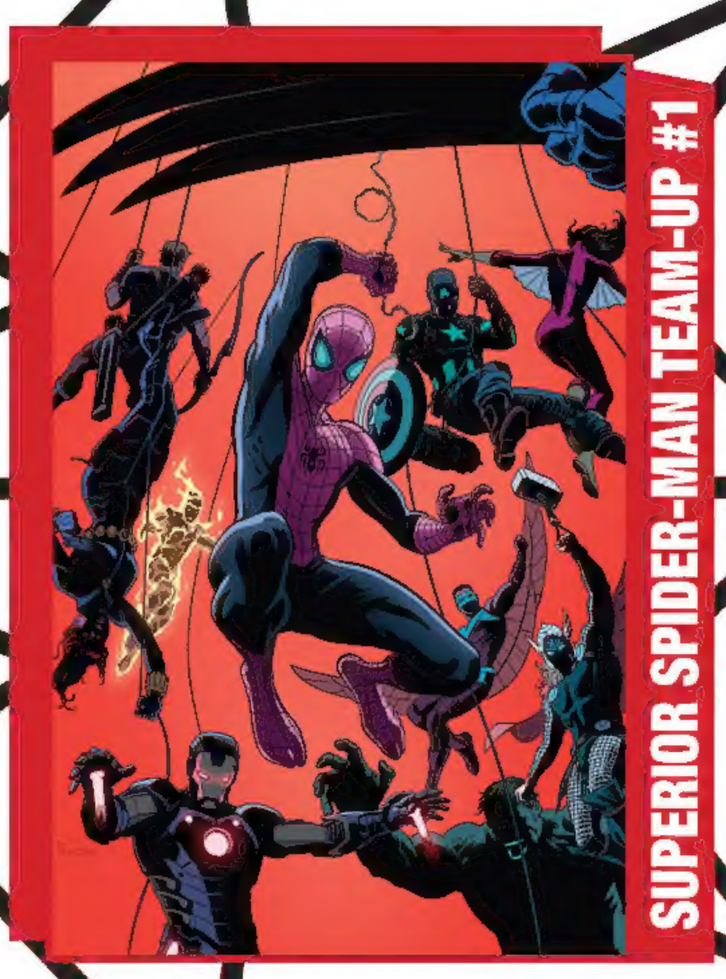

ZONE